GATCOMB'S MUSICAL GAZETTE

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BANJO, MANDOLIN AND GUITAR.

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E. M. HALL.

"DOWN IN SUNNY SOUTHLAND."

Come walk beneath the oaks with me,
Sweetheart, sweetheart;
While mocking birds sing cheerily,
Sweetheart, sweetheart;
A question that I fain would ask,
For me 'twould be a sweet love task,
So do not fail me sweetheart, come
And meet me by the old sweet-gum.

The question that I'd ask of thee,
Sweetheart, sweetheart;
Is one that's all the world to me,
Sweetheart, sweetheart;
I've treasured it for many an hour,
I've whispsred it to many a flower,
So do not fail me sweetheart, come
And meet me by the old sweet-gum.

W. B. LEONARD.

Albany, Ga.

E. M. HALL.

Our first-page cut this month is one which needs no explanation to the readers of this paper. E. M. Hall is widely known in the musical and minstrel profession and is as favorably as he is widely known. A native of Maine he has for years acknowledged Chicago as his home and in the "Windy City" owns a handsome house at 4207 Vincennes avenue, where with a wife, son and daughter he passes what spare time he can exact outside the duties of an absorbing profession.

E. M. Hall's first professional engagement was in Kalamazoo, Mich., in the later sixties, and his rise was rapid from that time on. Since then he has appeared as banjoist and singing comedian in every large city of the country, and in Europe as well. In fact he was paid in London the largest sum ever received by a banjoist for a single performance. He was the first man to introduce to the public banjo solos with orchestral accompaniment in white face.

Mr. Hall has not only been a constant performer, but a prolific and brilliant composer of both banjo and piano music, and he has also written many popular songs, many of which he sings himself. One of his latest song hits is his "Chilli-Con Carne Coon," a rag-time coon song. His "Annexation March," published for both banjo and piano, is one of the best marches published for some time.

At the present time Mr. Hall is one of the leading comedians of Primrose and West's Minstrels, with whom he is engaged for the season.

CHRISTMAS DOWN IN DIXIE.

[*Written for the Gazette.*]

If you wish to see the most novel and apparently the most inappropriate manner of celebrating Christmas, it would pay you to take a trip down into southern Georgia, but if this is impossible, the next best thing is to hear about it. This is my fourth winter in this section, but the Christmas scenes as enacted here are yet of much interest to me, notwithstanding my longing to to again participate in good old New England's holiday festivities.

The day before Christmas I took my dog (who by the way is a little disfigured but still in the ring), for a run of about two miles out into the country, and I honestly believe that in going that distance I passed no less than a hundred conveyances of different kinds, going into Albany, which as you can imagine formed one cavalcade of Ethiopian splendor, enhanced possibly by an occasional "cracker" or well-to-do planter, with a variety of typical "turnouts" that was nearly endless. Now I would pass a "four-in-hand" mule team driving a load of cotton in the bale, always driven by a darkey riding on the hindermost mule on the left, who incessantly worried (if possible) his mule companions by cracking a long lashed whip, and chanting words of endearment or persuasion to his long-eared charge.

Next would come a two-wheeled-cart, pulled by an emaciated ox guided by an old white-headed "uncle" of "ante-bellum days," with his long lank legs dangling in front of his (very) limited express.

Following this a large double wagon literally packed with black humanity, there being but one seat in front which had seating capacity for three grown negroes, and three smaller negroes who were too much crowded to groan, the balance of the crowd being seated in chairs, and all in a very hilarious holiday mood. It doesn't seem to matter to the negro what it is that draws him so long as he is not obliged to walk, and speed does not cut any figure, as I have frequently seen a cow hitched to a cart, also the absurd combination of a mule and an ox. These good-natured colored people practically "take the town" judging from the way that they congregate on the principal streets of the city, where they do very little buying, a great deal of visiting and are exceedingly instrumental in ladening the balmy southern atmosphere with an aromatic-ethiopian-once-experienced-never-to be-forgotten-perfume, for which I am told, and I have no right nor inclination to doubt the assertion, that in this last capacity they "stand alone or rather together, to make it stronger," for "in unity there is strength."

In front of nearly every business house are tables on which are displayed for sale fire crackers of all sizes, from the "two bunches for a nickle" variety to the immense cannon cracker, roman candles, sky rockets, torpedoes cheap candy, toys, etc., which are attended by children both white and black, and patronized largely by the colored people.

The negro is passionately fond of fire crackers and roman candles and will squander his last cent for them. A very amusing spectacle is a roman candle fight between two negro boys. They will fire candles at each other until one of the parties contending says "nuff." They get very closely together and fire them into each others faces, or as near as possible. They often set their clothes on fire, burn off their hair, and occassionally lose an eye, but they don't mind that and would not think that they had properly celebrated Christmas unless they indulged in one of these exciting combats. It is next to impossible to keep a nigger from getting drunk Christmas time, and colored servants on whom you can depend at other times cannot be prevailed upon to keep sober at this season. However, this charge may not be made alone to the gentleman of color for our white brethern are more than apt to do likewise. We might, in fact, term this last form of celebrating, universal. If you were not acquainted with the season of the year, it would be difficult to convince you that a southern Christmas was not a northern Fourth of July, taking into consideration the fire works and summer weather. This is the land of mistletoe and holly, but people do not seem to care for it much as a decoration, and is used very little for that purpose except by northern people, I believe. Sunday schools and some individuals indulge in Christmas trees and nearly every one keeps up the beautiful old custom of hanging up the stocking. The inevitable turkey, with cranberry sauce, is served here for Christmas repast and nearly all have a private display of fireworks at their homes. Beautiful roses, violets and hyacinths are still blooming here in abundance, but to one reared in the north, visions of sparkling snow, iridiscent icicles, and tinkling sleigh bells haunt him continually, creating in him a belief that there is something unseasonable about a southern Christmas time.

BOHEMIAN LEONARD.

Albany, Ga., Dec. 25, 1897.

"I WANT YER, MA HONEY."

Wayfarers who passed on the $3,000 paving stones in front of the white palace at Fifth avenue and Fifty-second street late Wednesday evening were startled to hear sounds of revelry coming from the magnificent mansion, and, listening, heard the strains of "I Want You, Ma Honey, Yes, I Do," in a fine stalwart baritone voice. The singer was no other than Willie Kissam Vanderbilt. The cheerful "plunk, plunk" of the banjo cut melodious holes in the midnight atmosphere, and "There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town To-Night."

Mr. Willie K. Vanderbilt had brought home a theatre party and they were entertaining each other. Messrs. Brooks and Denton, those social lions of the banjo team coterie, formed the "plunk, plunk," orchestra, and Mr. Vanderbilt, "by urgent request" and kind permission of, &c., &c., "rendered" "I Want You, Ma Honey'" to to their plunking, accompanied by himself and the piano.

"A Hot Time" was done in style and

with great fervor by the whole company, which included Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Harriman, Fred Beach, Ferdinand Yznaga, Norman de R. Whitehouse, Mr. and Mrs Trenon Parke, the Misses Forton and Miss Randolf.

Mrs. Oliver Harriman sang several of May Irwin's choicest songs in her rich soprano, and joined Mr. Vanderbilt in duet in "I Want You, Ma Honey," the whole concluding with the grand spectacular finale by the entire company, a Thompson street cake walk.

The utmost secrecy is maintained as to when and where the new company will make its first public appearance, but society is waiting in feverish anticipation, with check books out, for the box office to open.

MUSICAL WORLD.

According to the New York "Post," Shanghai, with 355.000 inhabitants has only two music teachers. When Emperor William opens his new empire in the East he will be able to furnish a valuable outlet to the constan ly growing crop of favorite pupils of Liszt.

It is reported in Berlin that Ossip Gabrilowitsch, the young Russian pianist, has been engaged to play in America during the season of 1898-99, for the sum of one hundred thousand dollars.

"The Opera Glass" for December, 1897, is a bright and neat-looking sheet, adorned with a first-page likeness of the famous amusement purveyor, B. F. Keith.

Mr. Sousa has often told how he gets inspiration for his marches. He says it usually comes on a Fourth of July or Memorial day when he hears a band play and watches s ldiers parading. The feeling of patriotism, or brotherhood or whatever it is that softens the heart over a specially splendid military spectacle, seizes upon him. Pretty soon, when the band music dies in the ear Mr. Sousa begins inwardly to whistle a new tune. He drums it off on the piano, and in a few months all America is whistling it with him.

Tamagno, the famous tenor, has, it would seem, been better able to make money than to keep it when he has made it. He recently bought an hotel in Rome for $100,000 in the hope of being able to sell it at a profit, and he gave $180.000 for some land which realized only $40.000 when it was resold. By these two transactions alone, said to have been entered upon under a friend's advice, Signor Tamagno has lost $360,000.

Music is getting more popular in Russia. The St. Petersburg Conservatoire alone was attended during the past year by 647 students of whom 383 were females, 306 devoted themselves to the study of the pianoforte.

In 1900 the Seventh Regiment, of New York, will go to the Paris Exhibition, 600 men strong. For this occasion the band will be increased to seventy-five men, with forty drummers, making a total of 115 men. They have many fine bands on the other side, but the band that will accompany the regiment will be one that will open the eyes of our foreign brethren.

The "North American Saenger Bund" will celebrate its Golden Jubilee in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1899. Mr Fred. H. Alms, of that city, has offered a prize of $1,000 for the best composition, to be sung at the opening concert of the Festival by the United Singers of Cincinnati.

The $15,000 Æolian organ in the rotunda of the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, was burned Dec. 29. Ignited in the interior. Now a total wreck. Guests almost panic stricken. Kerr, organist, averted panic by turning on the music. Organ while burning played "All Coons Look Alike to Me."—*Music Trades.*

THOMAS S. ALLEN.

Mr. Thomas S. Allen of Natick is a rising violinist and song composer of merit.

Among these may be mentioned "Do Not Tell on Me, Grandma," a pretty waltz melody, "You Have a Girl of Your Own," which is making a hit on the stage, "Yo' Black's Mo'n Skin Deep, Nigger," one of the best and most popular coon songs, and others, including ballads, waltzes and other songs. These songs are published by the L B. Gatcomb Co.

ENTERTAINED ITS FRIENDS.

The Elias Howe Company entertained its employes and friends very pleasantly the other evening at the Crawford House, the guests including well-known musicians and representatives of the trade in Boston and vicinity. Mr. H. J. Hooton officiated as toast master and musical selections were rendered by the Euterpe Club, using the Howe-Orme instruments, Sig. Rapisarda, mandolinist, and Mr. A. F. Adams, harpist. Mr. William H. Howe was prevented through illness from attending, but Mr. E F. Howe was was present representing the Elias Howe Co. The success of the affair was largely due to the efforts of Mr. Joe Oettinger, who had it in charge.

"A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW."

J. A. Silberberg, the brilliant pianist and composer, running mate for years of the renowned banjoists, Brooks and Denton, is the winner of the $50 prize in *Music Trades'* prize march contest, entitled "In the Barracks," and we extend him our congratulations. The following we clip from *Music Trades*, issue of Jan. 22.

"Mr. Silberberg's forte lies in his instrumental efforts, all of his brilliant successes being achieved in that line of work. His most successful pieces are 'On Review March and Two-Step,' 'Memories of Spain Waltzes,' 'Dance of the Pirates, March and Two-Step,' and 'Dream of the Ball.' The latter he considers the best effort he ever made, and last, but not least the present march, which got the prize offered by *Music Trades.*

Jake Silberberg, as his friends call him, is well liked and thought of by musicians throughout Greater New York, not alone in a musical way, but as a genial fellow well met. As an accompanist he has few equals, and for the past two years he has played with Brooks and Denton, the world renowned banjo team, and they will tell you that Jake Silberberg could not be equalled for that kind of work. Other performers whom he has played for, will also tell you the same thing."

Babb's Practical Guitar Instructor, published by the L. B. Gatcomb Co., still continues in great demand, as evidenced by its large and steady sale.

A PATHETIC INCIDENT.

At the Lyceum Theatre, in Atlanta, Ga., on New Year's night, Earnest Williams, of the Fields and Hanson Minstrels, sang "Mother, I Love You So," to a large audience.

The pathetic melody caught the great crowd and the singer was encored. As the orchestra struck up the prelude for the second time a telegram was handed Williams.

He read it, hesitated a moment and then staggered to the footlights, and repeated the song with the tears streaming down his face. When Williams left the stage the manager stepped to the front and explained that the telegram advised the singer of the death of his mother. Williams lives in Harrisburg, Pa., and he left on the first train after concluding his song, for his home.—*Exchange.*

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Subscribers who receive the "Gazette" in a red wrapper will understand that their subscription expires with that number, and will please renew promptly to avoid delay.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 1898.

EDITORIAL.

A handsomely gotten-up testimonial circular of the "Encore" Automatic Banjo comes to the L. B. Gatcomb Co. with the compliments of that well known veteran banjoist, Mr. Frank B. Converse of New York. On the outside cover is a cut of this unique musical machine, while inside is an elaborate editorial explanatory of the "Encore," followed by testamonials of leading banjoists and press notices. The masterly arrangements for this automatic banjo are the fruits of the labor of Mr. A. D Grover, the accomplished banjoist, and Mr. Converse has full charge of the banjos, their selection, etc. Keep your eye on the "Encore."

On another page appears a characteristic and realistic sketch, doubtless, of "Christmas Down in Dixie," from the pen of our live banjo friend, Prof. W. B. Leonard, Albany, Ga., which we doubt not will prove interesting to our readers.

Our readers, or the most of them, doubtless understand, that commencing with our last issue, as we then announced, the GAZETTE will hereafter be published bimonthly, or every two months. The explanatory phrase, which ends the preceding sentence, is hardly necessary, but one of our patrons wrote us he was glad we were going to publish every two weeks, and his absent-minded conclusion we trust will not be duplicated. We propose, however, to give our patrons their money's worth, and shall strive harder than ever to make the GAZETTE a readable paper.

CONCERTS.

Following is an abstract from the Utica, N. Y. *Globe*, on the recent Y M. C. A. carnival in that city: The large number of people who attended last evening were delighted with an instrumental program given under the direction of Prof. and Mrs. Thomas H. Nichols. For over an hour the various selections held the interest of the people. Every number was enthusiastically encored, and it was with difficulty that the performers were able to bring the program to a conclusion. The first selection was by the Nichols Mandolin and Guitar Club, which was repeatedly encored. This was followed by a banjo solo by Raymond Grey, one of the best appreciated selections of the evening. A trio composed of a banjo, mandolin and guitar followed, the artists being Cora Williams, Mildred Lewis and Gladys Doyle. A hearty encore was responded to by Teressa Vorhees and was well received. The Nichols Juvenile Banjo Club played "Dreams of Darkies' Land," to the great satisfaction of the audience, and the program was concluded by a selection by the Nichols Ladies' Trio, composed of Mrs. Nichols, mandolin: Miss Damms, zither, and Miss Heath, guitar.

In connection with the celebration of the United States national fete known as "Thanksgiving Day" on Wednesday evening, a minstrel entertainment was given on board the U. S. S. "Castine" by the crew of that vessel. Despite a threatening evening, though fortunately no storm broke, there was a large attendance, including the majority of the officers of H. M. S. "Retribution," the Italian war vessel "Umbria," and the Argentine war vessel, and all in full dress, and over sixty shore-folk, including the U. S. minister and consul and their ladies, and representatives of many well-known families An impromptu stage had been cleverly arranged on the deck gaily decorated with U. S. and other national flags. The entertainment was successful from commencement to close. Mr. Crossman, the banjoist, who has served professionally in the New York Theatres, was a splendid contributor to the pleasure of the evening.—*Montevideo Times*

The New Bedford pupils of Mr. A C. Robinson, the popular performer and teacher and well-known member of the Boston Ideal Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club, gave their first annual concert in Odd Fellows' Hall, that city, Thursday evening, Jan. 20, assisted by the Ideal Club, the Dartmouth Mandolin and Guitar Club, and Mr. G Rapisarda, mandolin soloist. Miss Julia Bancroft, soprano, Miss Hattie Williams, reader, and Prof. E. F. Honneyman, accompanist. The night was very stormy, but a large audience was present and were amply repaid for their presence. The concert was fine throughout, the 24 members of the mandolin and guitar orchestra, composed of Mr Robinson's pupils giving an excellent exhibition under his able direction, showing the careful training they had received The Dartmouth boys were an important feature, as were the solos of Mr. Lansing and Mr. Rapisada. The Ideals were afterwards entertained by the Dartmouth Club.

Our latest exchange is a magazine entitled "Music, Song and Story," the January number, although a Christmas issue in its make-up, being its first. It contains sixteen pages of lithographed music, just out, and high grade music too, and is finely illustrated. It is from the publishing house of S. W. Sampson, New York City.

The Concord, N. H., Mandolin Club is holding forth with gratifying success this season, which has been with this popular organization a busy one The personnel still stands: Mr. Erastus Osgood, reader and impersonator, Mr. Frank A. Leavitt, banjo soloist, Mr. B. J. Harriott, xylophone soloist and pianist, Mr. J. K. Bilsborough, guitar soloist, and Mr. George E. Farrand, mandolin and guitar.

From Dunstable, England, comes a concert program by the Oriental Orchestra, Dec. 9, at which also the artists appearing included Miss Agnes Vernon, soprano, Mr. Philip Bone, mandolinist, Miss L. Kirby, harpist, Mr. J. W. Vernon, humorist, Mr. Bert Sanders, bass, Mr. F. Lines, elocutionist and Miss Kate Vernon, accompaaist, a pleasing program being offered. Mr. Bone is a well-known performer and teacher of the mandoline.

The GAZETTE acknowledges the receipt from Mr. A. L Utt of Lexington, Mo., of his new patent transposition roller for guitar, which its author claims is a great thing for the musical fraternity.

Will C. Pepper, the popular English banjoist, gave his second banjo concert in St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross, W. C. Nov. 30, Mays and Hunter, the noted American banjoists, and other skilled talent, assisting.

Mr. L. H. Galeucia, for some time the manager of the Boston Ideal Club, has resigned and Mr. A. A. Babb has been elected to the position, and as have his predecessors, he will doubtless fill it ably and successfully. The Boston Ideals start on a two months' trip in the South about Feb. 20, under the auspices of the Southern Lyceum Bureau.

The *Musical Tempo* for December contains an accurate studio sketch of the well-known musician and impersonator of the old Granite State, Mr. Erastus Osgood of Concord, N. H.

The GAZETTE acknowledges the receipt of a pleasant letter from Mr. Fred E. Crossman of the U. S. S. Castine, written under date of Dec. 3, from Montevideo, Uruguay. Mr. Crossman is a banjoist of repute in this, his native country, being a native of Hudson, N. Y., and a fellow-townsman of Vess L. Ossman." I have a few pupils," he writes, "in Montevideo, but the natives

are not well enough acquainted with the banjo to take a great deal of interest in it. In the course of his letter Mr. Crossman pays a high tribute to the professional ability of the late Thos. E. Glynn. (See concert column for story from Montevideo) paper of celebration of Thanksgiving Day aboard the Castine.

The Euterpe Banjo, Mandolin and Harp Club of Boston have finished a very successful tour in this State. Were at Cortland, Fort Plain, Weedsport, Syracuse, Gouveneur, Green, Geneva, Auburn, New Berlin, Boonville, Cambridge and Argyle.—*Talent.*

The Boston Ideal Club furnished music at the annual dinner of the Limerick Club at the United States Hotel, Jan. 28. They have been unusually busy during January, playing during the week of Jan 24 at Worcester, Springfield and Hartford, under the booking of the Redpath Bureau.

Mr. C. S. DeLano, the enterprising banjoist of Los Angeles, and the inventor and manufacturer of the Elite Tail Piece, is receiving much praise for his article. It is surely a practical contrivance.

"Annexation March" has been published by the L. B. Gatcomb Co., Boston, Mass., for piano, and banjo and piano. It has a very catchy melody, and the arrangement for banjo and piano is made in such a manner as to make it a most pleasing composition.—*Music Trades.*

The L. B. Gatcomb Co., Boston, Mass., have published "Chilli Con-Carne Coon," by E. M. Hall. It is a cleverly written song, and has a melody that is very easy to sing and remember. This song should stand a good chance of meeting with popular approval.—*Music Trades.*

Mr. Frederick J. Bacon was born in Holyoke, Mass, 1871. At the age of four he began the study of the violin, but when ten years old he tired of it, preferring the banjo. In 1888 he made his first appearance on the stage and for five years played in some of the best theatres in America. In the winter of 1894 he placed himself under the tuition of Farland. The following year he taught in Norwich, Conn., and since that time has been located at Hartford where he has had good success both in concert work and teaching.

Mr. James Douglas Bohee, the celebrated English banjoist, and one of the renowned Troupe of Minstrels, died at the County Hotel, Ebbw Vale, on Wednesday night, Dec. 8, from an attack of pneumonia. He was taken ill at Merthyr, but journeyed to Ebbw Vale to fulfil an engagement. The Brothers Bohee have appeared before the British public for the last seventeen years, having come to England in 1880.

The Alpha Mandolin and Guitar Club, of Springfield, whose especially attractive program and excellent performances delighted many large audiences during their trip through the White Mountains, have been getting numerous concerts in that vicinity. Mr. J. J. Eberhard, their instructor, has an attractive program.

The Baxter Mandolin Orchestra organized last September under the management of and direction of Mr. William S. Baxter, is composed of some of the best musicians in Chicago, and is rapidly coming to the front. Arrangements have been completed whereby the orchestra will furnish all the mandolin music for the Chicago Athletic Association for this season—*Chicago Sat. Eve. Herald.*

B. Cutillo, of Philadelphia. is kept unusually busy with pupils. Mr. Cutillo is instructor of the South End Branch Y. M. C. A. Club. He is a fine mandolinist and capable of composing some brilliant music.

Mr. E. G. Baum of Buffalo, N. Y., is a young banjoist of promise, and already in much demand as a concert artist. He is the composer of "the Vitascope," which has already had a large sale.

"The Boston Ideals will go to Australia," says the Musical Tempo, in its "'Tis Said" column.

Mr. C. J. Levin, the Baltimore mandolinist, is reported to have his hands full with his many pupils. He is a first-class instructor as well as performer.

Massillon, O., is the possessor of a first-class musical organization in the Electric Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club, Mr. H. J. Weinrich director. They play the best music and have done some excellent concert work.

The *Cadenza* for November-December is a more than interesting number and contains portraits and sketches of well-known musical artists in the banjo, guitar and mandolin world, besides other reliable matter.

C. H. Bartlett of Holley, N. Y., is a banjo player and teacher of experience and reputation in the community where he resides, and he has always been devoted to the instrument. He writes the GAZETTE that business is good and the banjo is O. K. in Holley.

Mays and Hunter and A. D. Cammeyer appeared at S. A. Halfpenny's banjo festival, town hall, Stratford, England, Dec. 13. These artists receive cordial greeting where ever they appear.

Mandolin, guitar and cello players, good ones, can obtain positions in the summer months by writing W. I. Relf, director of the Imperial Mandolin Club, Cambridge Springs, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Lucas have been playing New England the past three months. They do an entertaining musical act.

The Euterpe Banjo, Mandolin and Harp Club, H. F. Odell, director, gives its eighth annual concert in Association Hall, corner of Boylston and Berkeley streets, Tuesday evening, Feb. 15. A grand orchestra of 100 banjos, mandolins and guitars, the Appleton Ladies' Quartette and John Thomas, the popular humorist, will assist.

The GAZETTE acknowledges the receipt of a very handsome Christmas card from its old friend and correspondent Prof. W. B. Leonard of Albany, Ga., and takes pleasure in wishing him in return "many happy returns of the day."

Al Martz and his well-equipped Specialty Company, are in the midst of an excellent season's business, and they gave a thoroughly up-to-date show. Martz flys the L. B. Gatcomb instrument colors at his mast head.

Raymond Gray, of 205 Howard street, a pupil of Prof. Nichols, is one of the best musicians in the High School and of late has appeared at many musical entertainments where he has gained great favor by his masterful handling of the banjo. Young Raymond is a pleasing youth and is one of the most popular boys in the Fourth Ward.—*Utica, N. Y. Globe.*

Gant's *Musical Journal*, published monthly at Lansing, Michigan, is an improvement in its second number over the first. It is devoted mainly to banjo, mandolin and guitar instruments, and is a very creditable paper.

The Allens, Mr. and Mrs., have returned to New York after their dates in this vicinity.

Dunham and Dadman, musical artists, are playing immediate engagements and are booked through the Hub Amusement Bureau of Boston.

Joe Donovan and Willie Kimball are accredited with four and five encores at the Casto Theatre, Fall River.

Mr. Al. Byron, banjoist, is playing in Boston and the surrounding cities with his usual success.

The Ladies' Crescent Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club were engaged for the Old Dorchester Club on Jan. 18, in connection with Mr. Charles Williams, through the Hub Amusement Bureau. Their engagement at Natick was an ovation from start to finish, and drew one of the largest audiences of the season.

The Ladies' Fadette Orchestra report a satisfactory business, and the "men" orchestras are "wondering" where they will be at."

Mr. Fred. Bowman, banjoist and comic singer, having returned from his date at Tony Pastor's and other New York theatres, is now on the New England Circuit.

Mr Bacon, of the Hub Amusement Bureau, seems to be in favor with the Old Dorchester Club. On Dec. 4 he booked them Emerson's Mariently. On Dec. 8, he booked a "smoker" entertainment for them.

On Dec. 15, the Oxford Club, and on Jan. 18 the Ladies' Crescent Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club.

Louise Horner, the talented banjoist and soprano, played a ten-nights' engagement at Gardiner, Me., through the Hub Amusement Bureau.

Donovan and Kimball played a week's engagement at Keith's Union Square Theatre, New York, beginning Dec. 6, and scored a big hit, as did Wilbur Hill, the following week. Donovan and Kimball will open at the Castle Theatre, Chicago, Feb. 7.

W. J. Horan is looking for a good man to play with him. As he has some dates in view during the month of February it would be a good chance for a young banjo player.

Emerson and Sharp, a new banjo team, are meeting with great success. They hail from Baltimore, Md. They played an engagement at Keith's New York House a short time ago.

Vess L. Ossman is kept busy all the time. Most of his playing is making public records for the Gramophone Company.

E. M. Hall has joined the Primrose and West Minstrels for the season and is meeting great success "on the end" with his "Chilli-Con-Carne Coon" and other taking banjo songs. Primrose and West open in New Orleans Feb. 6, where they will be one week.

Mr. Claud C. Rowden, the talented Chicago banjoist, was the drawing card at the Thanksgiving concert given at Goshen, Ind., for the benefit of the local library fund. Mr. Rowden played at Kankakee, Ill., Dec. 9, in Chicago, Dec. 10 and 16, and later in various cities and towns in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan He writes this season will be his biggest yet, and that he has been very busy with both pnpils and concerts.

"The Chicago Trio" is one of our leading banjo, mandolin and guitar papers, carrving a complement of interesting news and its last edition is a very flattering one to its management.

Miss Nellie Eibel of Malden is having an excellent season's business with banjo, mandolin and guitar pupils.

Miss H. N. Cooley, 40 Dudley street, Boston, is one of our veteran banjo, mandolin and guitar teachers who has always plenty to do. She is also a skilled and experienced teacher of piano.

Cards are out announcing the engagement of the talented mandolinist, Miss H. Mabel Mann of Dartmouth street, and Mr. De Witt Clinton Jordan of this city.

Miss Grace C. Phinney of the Ambersides and Miss Maude A. Emerson, the musical director of this organization, report business lively of late in the instruction line.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13, 1897.

MESSRS. L. B. GATCOMB CO.:

I believe my subscription to the GAZETTE expires with this month's issue.

Certainly I want it for another year, and I hope many more to come. It seems to grow brighter and more interesting as it advances in years, and may it continue to do so.

Our street and number has been changed in Brooklyn, so kindly correct my address to 696 Sterling Place, instead of Butler street. Wishing you the compliments of the season and a prosperous new year I am,

Very truly yours,

A. P. ALLING.

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CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, PA., Dec. 21, 1897.

MR. L. B. GATCOMB:

Dear Sir—I think your Mandolin and Guitar Journal the best published, and enclose 50 cents for one year subscription to the same.

Very Truly yours,

W. I. RELF,
Director Imperial Mandolin Club.

ENTIRELY UNSOLICITED.

SANDY HILL, N. Y., Dec. 23, 1897.

L. B. GATCOMB CO., Boston, Mass.:

Gentlemen—I have a "Gatcomb Standard" No. 25, which I purchased in Burlington, Vt., in 1889, at which time I was identified with the University of Vermont Banjo Club. I am still of the same mind as then; there is but one banjo and that "The Gatcomb." My banjo has been in all kinds of weather and in almost constant use for the past nine years, nearly. In that time it has never had one cent paid out on it save for one new head and for the repair of the neck which was broken in 1890, I think At present it needs six brackets, a new head, a part of the fifth position mark and the refitting of the patent pegs—also to be "shined up."

What will your charges be to put banjo in "Gatcomb shape?"

Yours very sincerely,

EDWARD CLARK, JR.
Banjo Soloist and Teacher.

P. S. What prices can you make me on Gatcomb Banjo—on solo instrument for myself and general price for pupils. E. C.

ALBANY, GA., Dec. 18, 1897.

L. B. GATCOMB, Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir—Received the GAZETTE O. K. and glad to hear that you are going to make it a bi-monthly. I have no doubt but that this departure will increase your already large circulation. If you require a larger subscription rate let me know and I will gladly remit the amount. The weather is very warm here yet, and have not had a frost severe enough to kill the roses. My business is increasing every day and bids fair to be the largest I have ever had in the South. Hope to be able to write you something interesting about Christmas down in the Sunny South in my next. When do you go to press now?

Fraternally,

W. B. LEONARD.

GRACE NOTES

He played upon a mandolin,
And sang a song of love;
The old man threw a bootjack
From the window from above.
Exchange.

"Guest (in cheap restaurant)—Here, waiter. This meal is simply vile. I won't pay for it. Where's the proprietor?

Waiter—He's out to lunch, sir.—*Philadelphia Record.*

"Why is it," asked the philosopher, 'that misfortunes never come singly?"

"Can't say," replied the other man, "unless it is on account of the reception they get they're afraid to travel alone."—*New York Journal.*

"An old bachelor," said the sweet girl, "is a man who confesses that he does not think he is smart enough to take care of any one but himself."

"To my mind," said the mean man, "he shows that he is too smart to take care of any one but himself."—*Cincinnati Inquirer.*

"They tell me, Grumpy, that your daughter is wedded to music."

"I should say that she was from the noise she makes; but I've offered her ten thousand dollars to get a divorce and would double the offer on a pinch" *Detroit Free Press.*

No one knows what tune Nero was fiddling while Rome burned. There is no historical basis for the supposition that it was: "A Hot Time in Old Town To-Night."—*Kansas City Journal.*

A Negro exhorter, while holding a meeting in Georgia, solicited a special collection o defray expenses of the meeting. "We'll pass roun' de hat," he said, "en durin' de singin' of de hymn on page 205 'On Jordan's Stormy Banks.'" And then he proceeded to "line out" the hymn, but so intent was he on the collection that he forgot lines of it. and supplied others with the following result:

"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
En cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's air an happy land—
(Don't let that hat pass by!)

"O, de transportin', rapturous scene
Dat rises to my sight?
(Drap in dat nickel, Brudder Green!)
En rivers of delight!

"Could I but stand where Moses stood,
En view the landscape o'er.
Not Jordan's stream, or death's flood—
We wants ten dollars more!)"

—*Exchange.*

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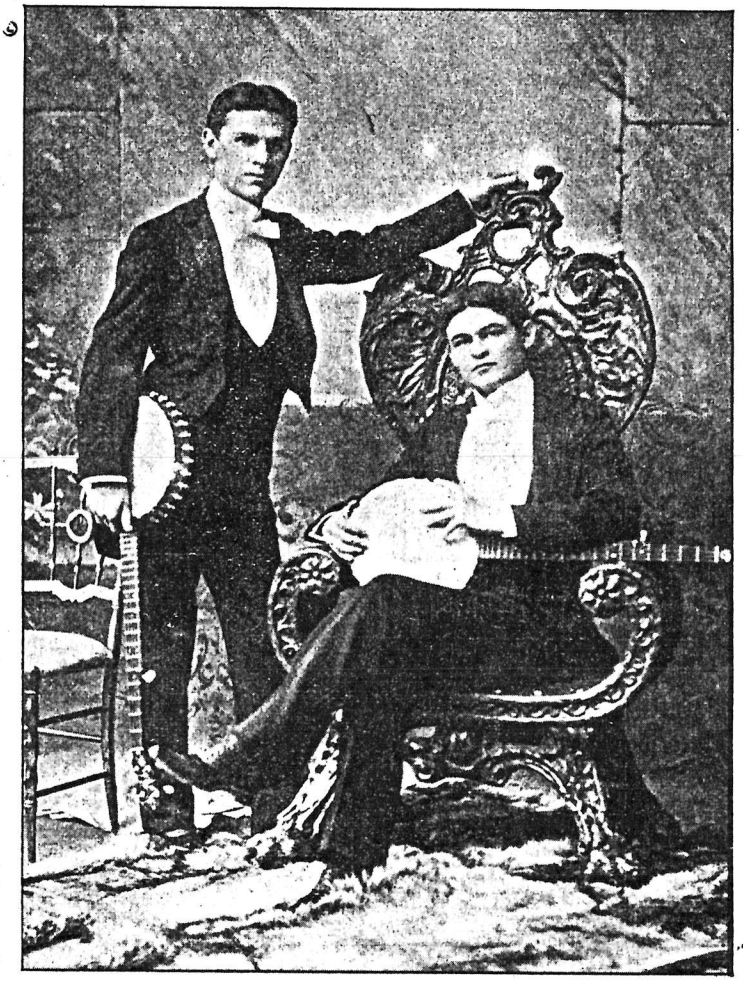

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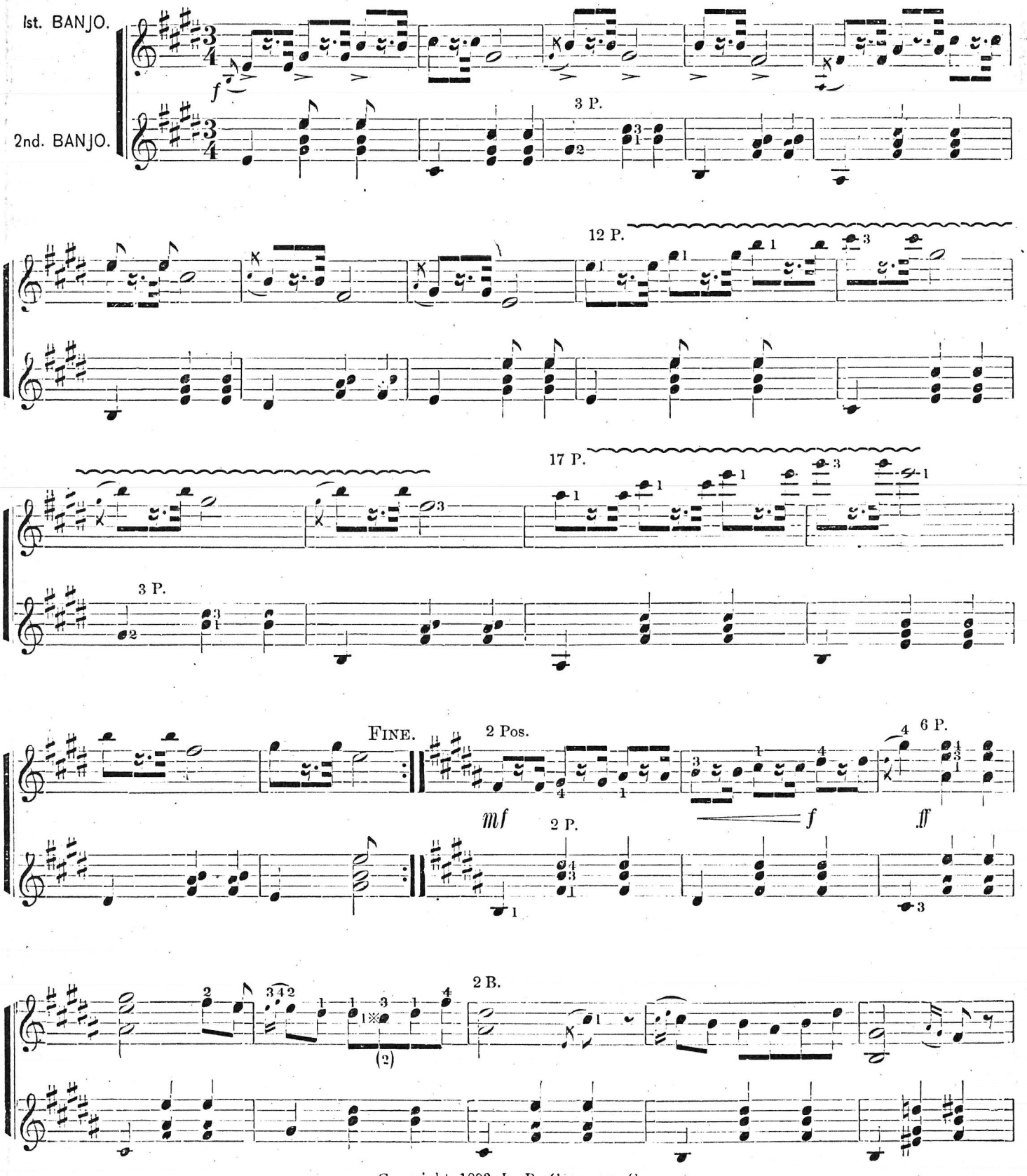
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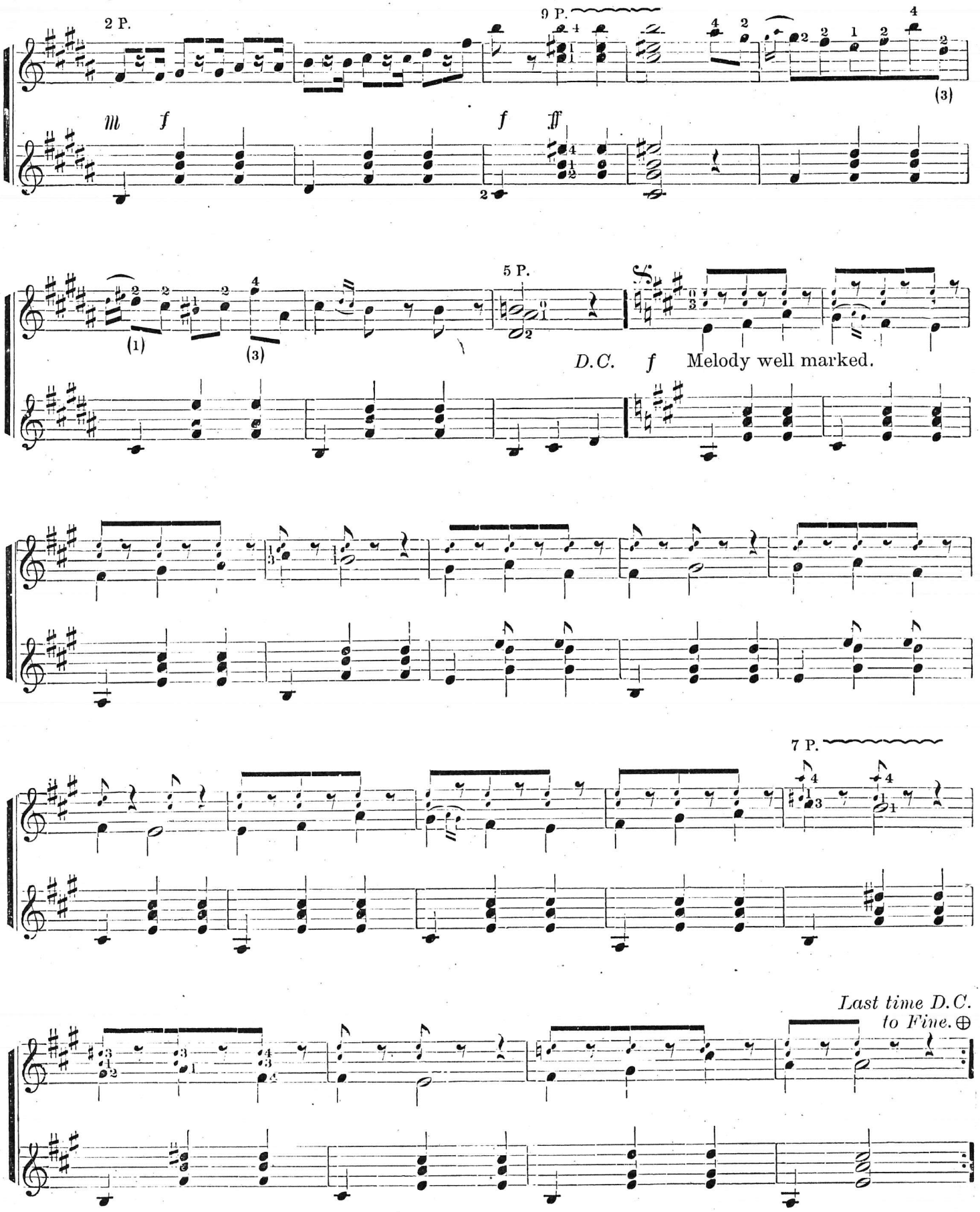
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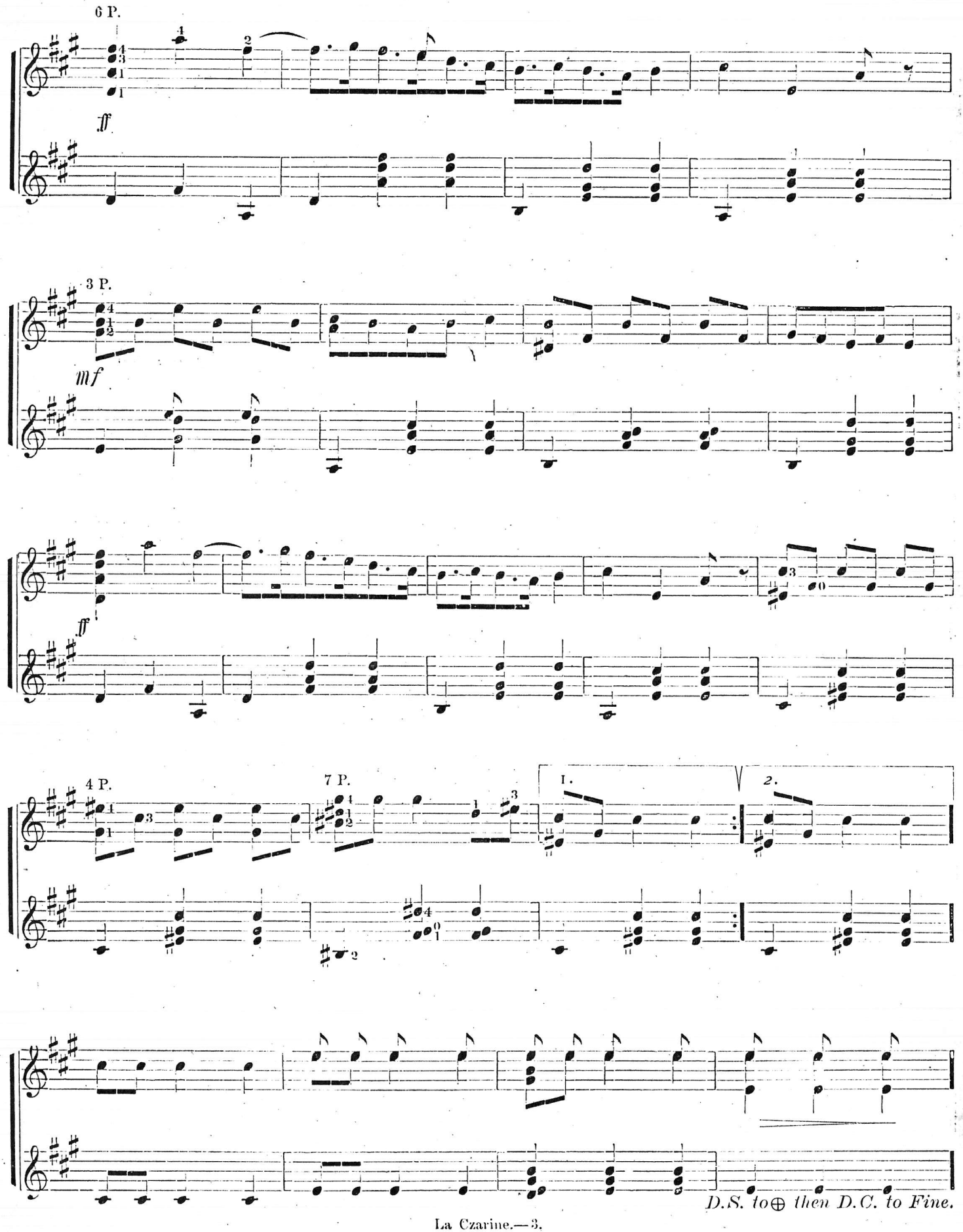
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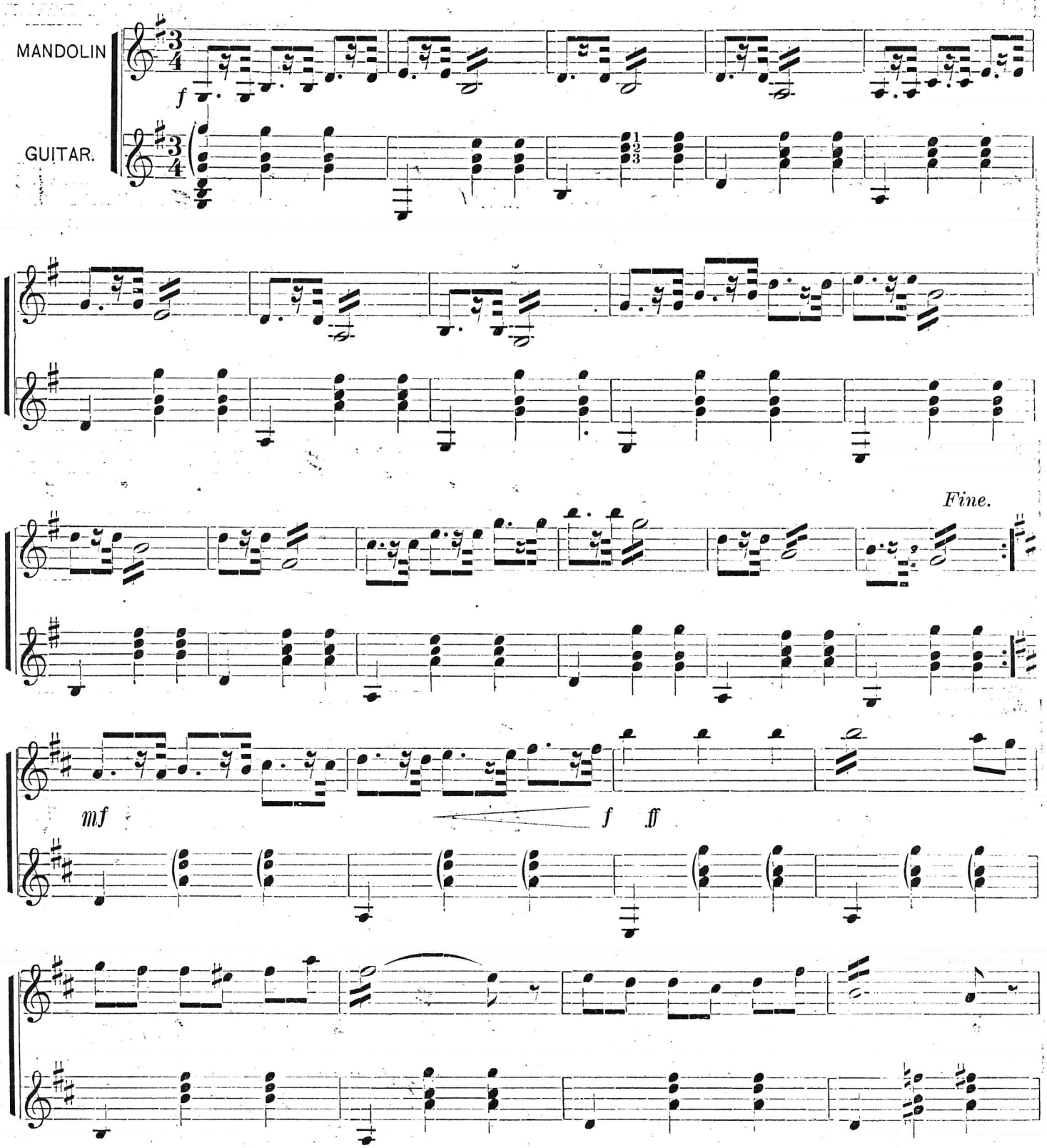
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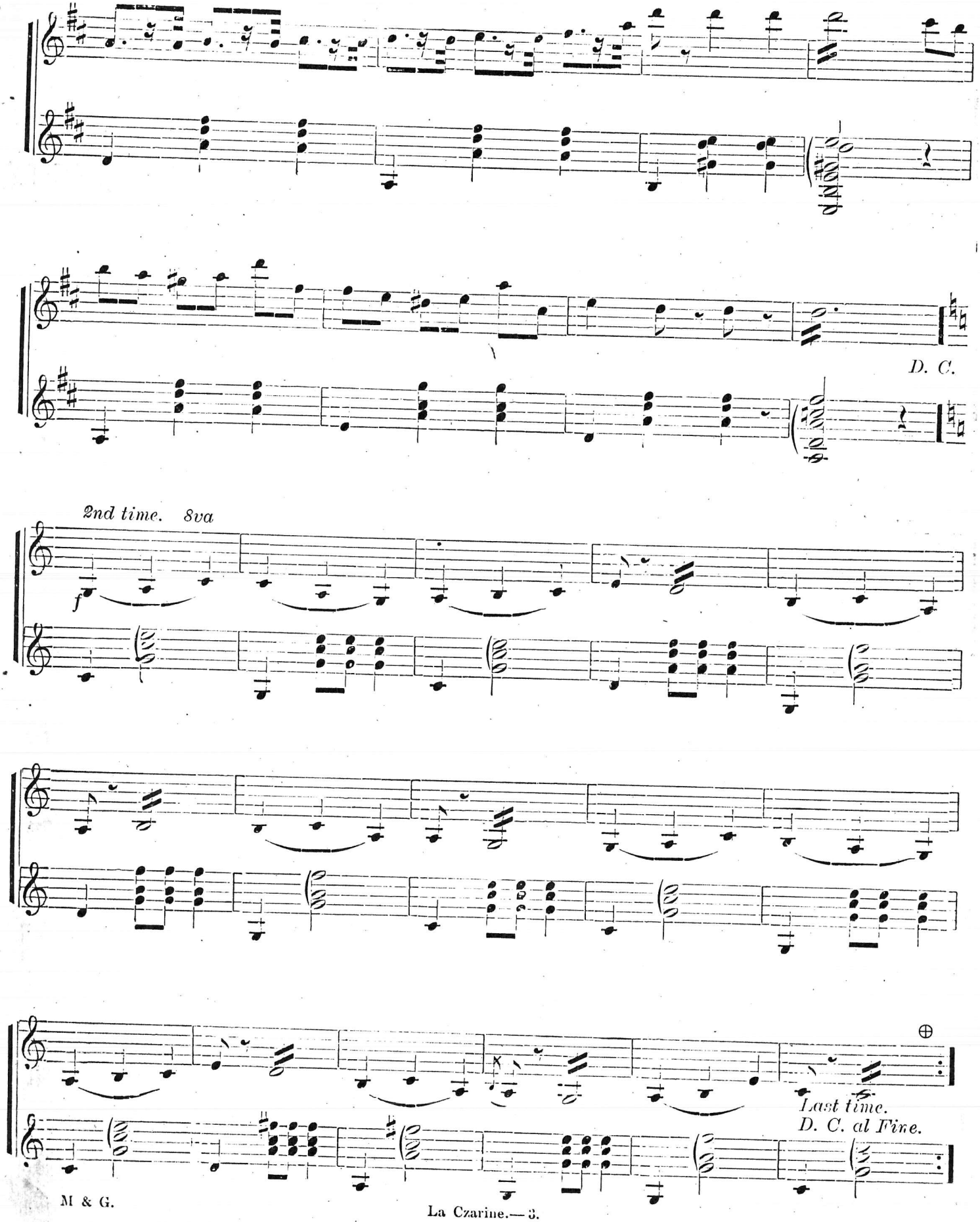
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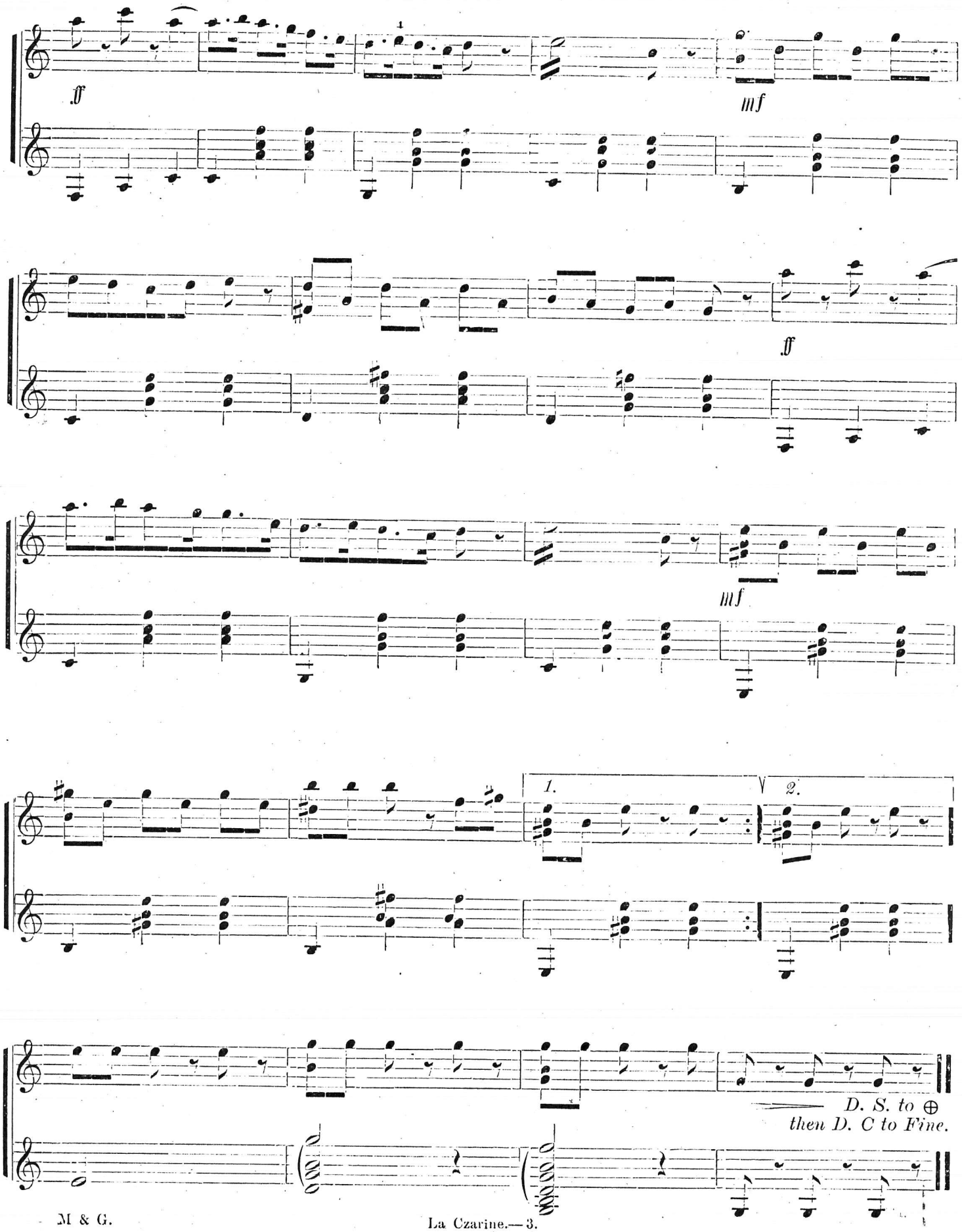
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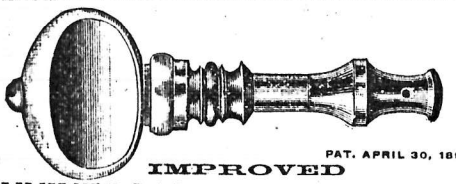
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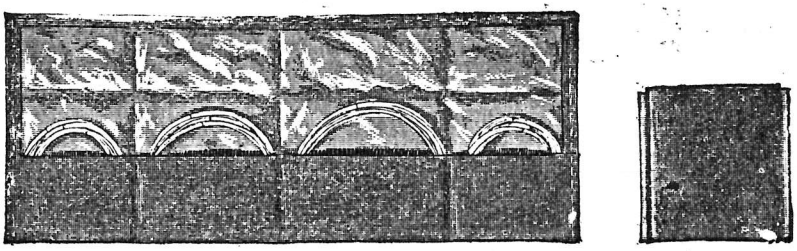
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